August 29, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

Assemblymember, CA State Assembly

1021 O Street, Suite 6350

Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**Re: SUPPORT AB 387 (Aguiar-Curry) - Alzheimer’s Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committee**

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance the wellbeing of older adults in Yolo County through education, collaboration, and advocacy. We work to identify and address gaps in services and connect people to the many resources and services throughout the County for our senior, rural and under-served communities to ensure access for all residents in our County.

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliancestrongly supports AB 387 which seeks to expand the membership of the Alzheimer’s Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committeeto better represent the growing needs of the various stakeholders surrounding this issue.

Alzheimer’s is the most common type of dementia, accounting for approximately 70% of cases. In California alone, there are approximately 690,000 individuals living with Alzheimer’s. According to data from the California Department of Public Health, among those who develop Alzheimer’s, women, African-Americans, and members of the Latinx community are at increased risk.

The Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Advisory Committee was established within the California Health and Human Services Agency in 1988 to provide ongoing advice and assistance on program needs and priorities of persons impacted by Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia disorders. The Advisory Committee represents people living with Alzheimer’s, their families, caregivers, and providers. It convenes quarterly to provide ongoing advice and assistance to the administration and the Legislature as to the needs and priorities of the target population.

Currently composed of 14 members, the Advisory Committee has been instrumental in strategic planning projects like the 2011 California State Plan for Alzheimer’s Disease and their many contributions to Governor Newsom’s 2021 Master Plan for Aging.

Because California’s population of residents living with Alzheimer’s is expected to double by 2040, it is critical that the ADRD Advisory Committee reflects the changing needs of this growing population.

Stigma around Alzheimer’s disease still exists, due to a lack of public awareness and understanding of the disease, and prevents people from seeking medical treatment in a timely manner, planning for their future, participating in clinical trials, and delaying an early or any diagnosis.

AB 387 updates ADRD membership to ensure that more stakeholder voices are heard as the committee issues advice for addressing Alzheimer’s across California. This bill expands the Advisory Committee to have up to 25 members.

This bill also aims to overcome stigma by removing stigmatizing language and practices from code that negatively impact persons living with Alzheimer’s and their caregivers. This bill allows for committee members living with Alzheimer’s to participate more fully by removing unfair term limits.

Thank you for your consideration of our SUPPORT position on AB 48. Please include Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance on your list of supporters and contact **Sheila Allen** at sheila.allen@yolohealthyaging.org/ 530-776-5006 with additional questions.

Sincerely,

Sheila A. Allen, RN, PhD

Executive Director, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance